Role of IT in Economy

185. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the ILO Report, indicating that even though India has an outstanding achievement in the area of software industry and many jobs have been created, but widespread poverty still remains;

(b) whether Government are thinking of using IT in transforming the old economy and raising the productivity growth of rural India, throguh getting new markets for farmers and self-employed rural women to sell their products on websites; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the plans being drawn by the IT Ministry in consultation with other relevant Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Use of Information Technology in Rural Development

A. Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Rural Development has Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) which is a holistic self-employment programme which encompasses the element of credit and lays stress on the development of micro-enterprises by promoting Self-Help Groups through activity clusters, which has been launched with effect from 1.4.99. Under the SGSY stress is given in skill development, technology and marketing of products made by the self-employment rural poor. The Ministry of Rural Development is considering creation of facilities for using IT for raising the productive growth of rural India through getting new

markets for self-employed rural poor in selling their products on web-sites.

B. Ministry of Information Technology

The MIT (erstwhile DOE) has been supporting variety of technology projects and pilot applications on IT in partnership with other Ministries and State Governments. This is a on-going process and details of the projects are as below:

1. All India Coordinated Project (AICP) for setting up of Rural Electronics and Computer Repair/Maintenance Centres in 10 States implemented by Society for Electronics & Computer Technology, Bhopal.
2. Development of low-cost Audio Visual System for Adult Literacy Programme for Teaching Indian Languages implemented by Centre for Electronics Design & Technology of India (CEDTI), Mohali.
3. Solar Inverter for Water Pumps in Rural Area implemented by Electronics Research & Development Centre (ER&DCI), Thiruvananthapuram.
4. Development of Integrated Watershed Management System implemented by Society for Rural Industrialization (SRI), Ranchi.
5. Preparation of Geographical Information System (GIS) for Jhabua Block of Jhabua District (M.P.) implemented by National Centre for Human Settlement & Environment (NCHSE), Bhopal.
6. Add-ons and Revisions of THEMAPS/DIGITIZ software for Micro Watershed Planning implemented by System Research Institute (SRI), Pune.
7. Development of an Intelligent System for Automated Virtual Terrain Mapping implemented by Centre for Computers & Communication Technology, Gangtok.
8. Design & Development of Software for Planning and Management of different types of Watershed for Rural Areas implemented by People's Research Organisation for

Grass Root Environmental Scientific Services (PROGRESS) Hyderabad.

9. Design & Development of Field Implantable Continuous Soil Moisture Indication System for Irrigation Schedule implemented by Applied Electronics for Farmers & Agriculturists (ALFA), Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV), Jabalpur.

10. Design & Development of Testing Kit for Urea and Phosphatic Fertilizers implemented by Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV), Jabalpur.

11. Design & Development and Field Adaptation of Microcontroller based Solar Powered Grain Moisture Measurement System implemented by Electronics Research & Development Centre of India, (ER&DCI), Noida.

12. Canal Control System and Communication Project jointly implemented by Ministry of Information Technology and Irrigation Department, Government of Maharashtra and executed by CMC Ltd. at Khadakwasla Irrigation Canal, Pune. The system is being replicated in Teesta Irrigation Canal (W.B.) and is also being replicated as part of A.P. Irrigation Information System Project. This is being implemented jointly between Ministry of Information Technology and irrigation Department of Andhra Pradesh.

13. Samadhan Kendra (Village Information Centre)

This project is being implemented at Mudukulathur and Bagalur Blocks of Ramanathapuram Distt., Tamil Nadu. The broad objectives of the projects are:

(1) To initiate a network of Village Information Centres (VIC) in Ramanathapuram Distt., Tamil Nadu to provide Information Services for 20-30 Gram Panchayats in two blocks i.e. Mudukalathur and Bagalur.

(2) To develop Computer Application to support VIC network in the areas listed below:

- Public Health
- Village Level Resource Map

  Crop Planning
- Soil Preservation & Fertility Management

The project is implemented by Centre for Ecology and Rural Development (CERD), Pondicherry. Three more pilot projects in this direction have been initiated.

14. Community Information Centre — The Project is planned to be implemented in 446 blocks in North East States to promote Information Technology and its applications. Another 40 centres would be set up in Sikkim as part of Prime Minister's Package for North East. The Project is being executed through NICSI.

15. Land Record Computerisation Project — Land Record Computerisation Project is being implemented by NIC for land revenue management which is of vital significance as far as rural areas are concerned. The scheme is being implemented since 1994-95 in collaboration with Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

16. Computerised Rural Information System Project (CRISP)—The objective of the project is to strengthen the monitoring of rural development schemes. The project is being implemented by NIC and is sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development. The software developed under the project would be used at District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA). It would strengthen the computer and communication environment at each of the DRDAs and improve monitoring exercise related to various rural development scheme.